(c) Information for the year 1985-86, 1986-87 and 1987.88 regarding complaints of non|late delivery of Unregd.|Regd.|Insured parcels and ordinary|Insured VPL| VPPs is enclosed as Annexure [*See* Appendix CLI, Annexure No. 103].

Annual Central Plan for 1990-91

1560. DR. MOHD. HASHIM KIDWAI: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the size of the annual plan of the Centre for 1990-91 has been finalised and approved by the Planning Commission; and

(b) if so, how much allocations have been made for public and private sector?

THE MINISTER OF PLANNING AND THE MINISTER OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Investigations for taking donors blood by Blood Banks

1561. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of Government and Private Blood Banks existing in the country;

(b) whether it is a fact that it is essential under the Drugs Act for such banks to make investigations about the Blood Group, Blood Pressure and other diseases of the donors, before taking their blood; if so, the names of diseases about which the investigations are made before taking blood of donors and the number of such blood banks undertaking the prescribed tests;

(c) whether Government are aware that AIDS investigations are not made by any of such blood banks before taking blood from the donors; if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) what steps have been taken by Government to ensure adherence to prescribed tests; and

(e) whether Government propose to declare AIDS TEST essential, before taking blood of donors; if so, by when; if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM): (a) As per information available, there are 720 blood banks as under:—

(i) Blood banks attached with Medical Colleges	110
(ii) Blood banks attached to District Hospitals	430
(iii) Blood banks owned by voluntary and charitable institutes.	80
(iv) Commercially owned blood banks	100
	720

(b) Yes, functioning of blood banks is regulated as per the Drugs and Cosmetics Act. Medical examination and Haemoglobin estimation are required to be done before donation to exclude any disease.

After donation, tests for Syphilis Hepatitis B, HIV and Malaria are required to be done. Blood found positive for these diseases are to be discarded. Information regarding the number of blood banks conducting the prescribed tests will be obtained.

(c) A phased programme for screening of HIV for blood donors is being imple-

mented in 122 blood banks in the cities of Bombay, Madras and Delhi. In Calcutta, the testing would start in 29 blood banks shortly. Screening of blood donors has also started in 26 cities where ICMR has established testing centres. The testing facilities are being expanded in a phased manner.

(d) State Drugs Controllers exercise control on the functioning of blood banks under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act.

(e) Facilities for testing the blood for HIV and other blood transmissible diseases are being expanded in a phased manner. The Rules under the Drugs & Cosmetics Act are being amended to provide that every licensee of a blood bank shall get sample of every blood unit tested for freedom from HIV antibodies.

Provision of better telex services

1562. SHRI PRITHIBI MAJHI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to provide better communications facilities, particularly telex services in the major cities; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The major cities like New Delhi, Madras, Ahmedabad, Bangalore, Ernakulam, Gauhati, Jaipur and Hyderabad have already been provided with electronic telex facilities. Calcutta and Bombay Telex networks are partially electronic and they will become fully electronic by the end of 89-90. Some more major cities like Patna, Chandigarh, Pune, Baroda, Lucknow, Kanpur, Varanasi and Gwalior are proposed to be converted into electronic telex net work by the end of 1990.

It is also proposed to convert the entire telex network in India into electronic network by the end of the Eighth Plan subject to the availability of the equipment.

Development of low cost housing technology

1563. SHRI PRITHIBI MAJHI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Glass and Ceramic Research Institute, Calcutta has developed a low cost housing technology; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) and (b) Central Glass & Ceramic Research Institute, Calcutta has developed a technology package for the production of low cost innovative components such as sanitary wares, unglazed flooring and facing tiles building blocks and roofing planks, utilising low grade plastic and semi-plastic clays, unconventional ceramic raw materials and other ingredients, as materials for low cost housing. The process know-how for manufacturing the above components have been demonstrated and training imparted to participants from many agencies sponsored by the Council for Advancement and People's Action in Rural Technology (CAPART). Two parties are producing different items demonstrated during the training programme.

Addition of more direct exchange lines in the country

1564. SHRI PRITHIBI MAJHI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to add some more direct exchange lines and long distance public telephones in the country particularly in Assam during the 8th Five Year Plan; and